

NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 22, 2008 CONTACT: Michael T. Gerhart, Jr., NDHP 328-2455

PATROL INCREASES VISIBILITY FOR LABOR DAY HOLIDAY PERIOD

The North Dakota Highway Patrol will participate in a national crackdown towards impaired driving through September 1, 2008. The Patrol, along with other law enforcement agencies, will step up enforcement as part of the national Drunk Driving, Over the Limit, Under Arrest campaign.

In conjunction with impaired driving efforts, troopers will also focus on traffic violations which contribute to traffic crashes. Safety restraint violations will be strictly enforced. Saturation patrol methods will be utilized in an effort to remove impaired drivers from the roadways. The public is encouraged to report any erratic driving by calling 911.

Alcohol is a contributing factor in 49% of all fatal traffic crashes in North Dakota. "Removing the impaired driver from our roadways is critical. The safety of the motoring public, through the prevention of traffic crashes, is our goal," said Colonel Mark Nelson.

The Patrol will also participate in Operation C.A.R.E. (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) this Labor Day holiday period. The Patrol will be joining highway patrol and state police agencies nationwide in an effort to reduce traffic crashes. Last year two fatal traffic crashes occurred over the Labor Day holiday period in North Dakota resulting in three fatalities.